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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/819,669	03/17/1997	THIERRY BOON	LUD-5253.5-D	1995
24972	7590	07/07/2009		
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI, LLP			EXAMINER	
666 FIFTH AVE			GAMBEL, PHILLIP	
NEW YORK, NY 10103-3198			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1644	
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			07/07/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

08/819,669

Applicant(s)

BOON ET AL.

Examiner

Phillip Gambel

Art Unit

1644

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 March 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 183-195 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 183-191 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 192-195 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C2)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's amendment, filed 03/26/2009, has been entered.

Claims 192-195 have been added.

Claims 183-195 are pending.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35 USC not included in this Action can be found in a prior Office Action.

This Office Action will be in response to applicant's amendment, filed 03/26/2009

The rejections of record can be found in previous Office Action, mailed 03/20/2009.

3. ODP with U.S. Patent No. 5,843,448.

Claims 183-191 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,843,448 (see 892, mailed 03/28/2001) for the reasons of record.

Although the claims are not the same, the patented claims, drawn to MAGE-1 tumor rejection antigen precursors and immunogenic compositions, anticipate the instant claims, drawn to MAGE tumor rejection antigen precursor proteins and compositions. It has been well known by the ordinary artisan for decades that vaccines are immunogenic and often comprise an adjuvant to increase the immunogenicity of the immunogenic or vaccine composition of interest.

Further, it is noted that SEQ ID NO: 8 of instant USSN 08/819,669 is the same as SEQ ID NO: 1 disclosed in Example 5 of U.S. Patent No. 5,843,448 (e.g., see Example 5 on columns 7-8 of U.S. Patent NO. 5,843,448).

Also, note that SEQ ID NO: 8 of the instant USSN 08/819,669 is described as SEQ ID NO: 8 which is a nucleic acid sequence encoding MAGE-1 (see Brief Description of the Sequences on page 10 of the instant specification). MAGE-1 is the subject of the patented claims and Example 5 of U.S. Patent No. 5,843,448.

Therefore, the instant claims and patented claims can anticipate or render obvious one another based upon either MAGE-1 or a MAGE protein comprising or hybridizing with SEQ ID NO: 8.

In addition, the following facts of record are noted.

A) Applicant filed a terminal disclaimer on 12/12/2006 supporting the obviousness of the instant claims over the claims of U.S. Patent No. 5,843,448.

B) In the Petition To Withdrawn Terminal Disclaimer, filed 05/02/2008, applicant noted the following.
FACTS

On December 6, 2006, the Examiner rejected the claims of this application on double patenting grounds, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,843,448. The '448 patent issued with the incorrect assignees on its face. The record of its prosecution indicates, however, that the patent was co-owned: As such an obviousness-type double patenting rejection, and a terminal disclaimer are not appropriate. Please see the assignment documents from the parent application, i.e., U.S. Patent No. 5,541,104, indicating that there are two assignees, one of whom (Cornell Research Foundation, Inc), is NOT an assignee of the current application. In short, co-ownership does not exist.

When there is no co-ownership, a terminal disclaimer is not proper, because an obviousness type double patenting rejection is not proper.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the Terminal Disclaimer filed over U.S. Patent No. 5,843,448, be WITHDRAWN.

It is noted that the Petition to Withdraw the Terminal Disclaimer, filed 12/12/2006, was granted and mailed on 07/21/2008.

However, applicant's following statement from the Petition is incorrect.

When there is no co-ownership, a terminal disclaimer is not proper, because an obviousness type double patenting rejection is not proper.

While a terminal disclaimer is not proper between this application and U.S. Patent No. 5,843,448, an obviousness-type double patenting rejection is still deemed proper.

An obvious-type double patenting rejection is proper when there is at least one common inventor, even if there is no common ownership. For example, see Chart II-B in MPEP 804 (follow the center path). Establishing a lack of common ownership removes the option of overcoming the obviousness-type double patenting rejection via a terminal disclaimer, but it does not overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

C) The Decision on Appeal Under 35 USC 134 by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI), mailed 01/16/2009, provides for the consideration of obviousness-type double patenting between the instant application and U.S. Patent No. 5,843,448 to be addressed in the instant application. See page 6 of the Decision as follows.

Should the double-patenting rejection have been withdrawn?

Fortunately, to the extent the examiner considers these questions unanswered on the present record, he has tools at his disposal to compel answers, including reinstating the double-patenting rejection or seeking additional evidence¹⁸ regarding the inventorship. The Board, however, lacks a basis in the record to pursue any of these possibilities.

Applicant's filing of a terminal disclaimer in conjunction with applicant's representative statement that the invention set forth and claimed in '448 patent resulted from a joint research collaboration between the two assignees of the '448 patent has been fully considered but has not been found convincing.

The terminal disclaimer filed on 03/26/2009, disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 5,843,448 has been reviewed and has not been accepted for the following reasons.

A) Given applicant's reliance upon a joint research collaboration and upon a lack of common ownership between the instant application and U.S. Patent No. 5,843,448; applicant cannot simply file one of USPTO's terminal disclaimer forms that state "...any patent granted on the instant application shall be enforceable only for an during such period that it and the prior patent are commonly owned."

Instead, the applicant would have to replace that language with the "not separately enforced" language of 37 CFR 1.321(d)(3).

B) Given that the reference (U.S. Patent) and the pending application have the SAME effective filing / priority date; the reference does not fall within the scope of 35 USC 103(c)(1), since the U.S. Patent is NOT available under 102(e).

Therefore, the nonstatutory double patenting rejection between the instant application and U.S. Patent No. 5,843,448 cannot be overcome by a terminal disclaimer.

4. ODP with U.S. Patent No. 7,495,074.

The terminal disclaimer filed on 03/26/2009, disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 7,495,074 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

However, it is noted that applicant has not addressed the following issue concerning double patenting with commonly assigned U.S. Patent No. 7,495,074.

Applicant should address the following.

Claims 183-191 and newly added 192-195 are directed to an invention not patentably distinct from claims 1-8 of commonly assigned U.S. Patent No. 7,495,074 for the reasons of record.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office normally will not institute an interference between applications or a patent and an application of common ownership (see MPEP Chapter 2300). Commonly assigned U.S. Patent No., discussed above, would form the basis for a rejection of the noted claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) if the commonly assigned case qualifies as prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) and the conflicting inventions were not commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made. In order for the examiner to resolve this issue, the assignee can, under 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and 37 CFR 1.78(c), either show that the conflicting inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made, or name the prior inventor of the conflicting subject matter.

A showing that the inventions were commonly owned at the time the invention in this application was made will preclude a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based upon the commonly assigned case as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g), or 35 U.S.C. 102(e) for applications pending on or after December 10, 2004.

5. Claims 192-195 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. No claim allowed.

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phillip Gambel whose telephone number is (571) 272-0844. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm. A message may be left on the examiner's voice mail service. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ram Shukla can be reached on (571) 272-0735.

The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Phillip Gambel/
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 1600
Art Unit 1644
July 6, 2009